

SICHA SUMMARY

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



Likkutei Sichos, Vol. 16

Sicha Yud Shevat

The Context:

The central theme of the last maamer distributed by the Previous Rebbe prior to his passing is the statement of our Sages that G-d created the world because "G-d had a longing for a dwelling place for Himself in the lowest of worlds." The maamer concludes with a discussion about the importance of executing one's Divine service with alacrity and zeal.

Being that this was his last published teaching, we should be able to find allusions to his life's mission in these two themes.

A Home for Him:

The abovementioned statement concerning creation is composed of three, interrelated elements: 1) For Himself, 2) a dwelling, 3) in the lowest of worlds. The desire originates in G-d "Himself," His essential self, not some

external manifestation or dimension of G-d. Therefore, there can be a "dwelling," a permanent, eternal revelation of G-d, and the dwelling can even be in the lowest of all worlds, because G-d's essence can be found anywhere. All other manifestations of G-dliness are contingent on G-d Himself, and so cannot enjoy permanence, and cannot be revealed in an oppositional space, only in a place receptive to G-d.

These three elements can be translated into the realm of divine service. 1) "For Himself," when we fulfill our mission simply in response to G-d's desire, not to fulfill our own spiritual ambition or drives, then our service will resemble, 2) "a dwelling," it will be consistent and permanent, without fluctuation or change. If our motivation was our spiritual thirst, then our service would depend on our current level of enthusiasm. When we serve G-d for His sake, then we will engage with 3) "the lowest of worlds," we will not shy away from anything that is necessary, even if it is not the most sublime and elevated form of service.

The Previous Rebbe personified this approach. He was dedicated to serving G-d to the point of self-sacrifice, not for any personal, spiritual benefit, but simply “for Him” alone. Therefore, there was never any variation in his work of spreading Judaism, Torah, and mitzvos throughout the vastly different circumstances he encountered in his life. And because he was solely interested in fulfilling G-d’s desire, he worked on projects that might be considered beneath his dignity, such as working to establish schools to educate small children, and programs to educate rabbis who would be focused on the practical observance of Torah and mitzvos.

The Lesson:

We must expend every effort to inculcate our children with pure, Jewish education, with minimal distraction from the demands of secular subjects. And we must place an emphasis on studying the laws that are applicable in the daily life of a Jew.

When we do so, we will see supernatural success, just as the Previous Rebbe’s efforts bore fruit that can be seen till today, in the families from the former Soviet Union whose connection to Judaism was preserved through the efforts of his emissaries.
